

VILLAGE VOICES

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Editor, Teri Barown, Village Administrator

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News from the Mayor's Office

I hope you have had a wonderful start to the New Year. Winter is one of my favorite times in Cooperstown - replete with snowy days and the opportunity to stay warm at home and catch up on reading, or gather with friends at a Film Society classic or go outside and enjoy wintry activities and all the events of the upcoming Winter Carnival.

There is a lot going on at this time of year. And we in the Village have been busy with the many details associated with the major infrastructure projects currently in the works. In this issue of Village Voices you will find information on the TEP downtown improvement project which began last fall, our Waste Water Treatment Project, redesign work in Pioneer Park, and of course plans for historic Doubleday Field. These are all significant projects funded for the most part by grants secured from various agencies including the Federal Highway Administration & NYS DOT, Environmental Facilities Corporation, Empire State Development, DEC and State and Municipal Facilities Program. By leveraging that funding we have been able to undertake significant work without adversely impacting our tax paying residents.

In addition to the above projects, this year will see work continue on our historic Village Hall with funding secured to renovate the leaky skylights. A Climate Smart Community grant will enable us to replace a Willow Brook culvert on Grove Street to forestall the risk of damages from future flooding.

All of these accomplishments are possible due to a very active Village Board, with a great deal of support from our Village Administrator Teri Barown who adeptly handles all the grant reporting requirements.

I was asked this month to present State of the Village talks to several organizations. In summarizing our progress and our goals, it became abundantly clear – the state of our Village is strong! We thank you for your support.

- Ellen Tillapaugh, Mayor

Snow Emergencies

A snow emergency, or other emergency, is declared by the Mayor, Village Administrator, or DPW superintendent. An emergency will be announced via media outlets including TV, radio, and the Village website. Parking is prohibited on all Village streets during a declared emergency. Parking will be made available in the Doubleday Field Parking Lot whenever an emergency prevents parking on the streets. Cars that remain on the street during an emergency may be towed.

Village Elections - 2019

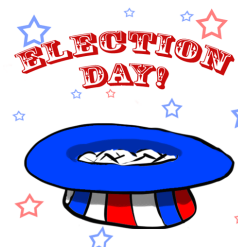
Election Day for the village will be Tuesday, March 19, 2019. The election will be held at the Cooperstown Fire Hall, 24 Chestnut Street. The following offices are up for re-election:

- Trustee (2) – Three year terms
- Trustee (1) – One year term

At the time of release of this newsletter, the Democratic Caucus is scheduled to be held on January 29, 2019 for the nomination of candidates for the positions shown above. A Republican Caucus was not scheduled. Please watch the local papers for the names of the nominees.

The deadline for the Village Clerk to receive Independent Nominating Petitions is not until February 13, 2019; therefore, additional candidates and/or parties may be added to the ballot at that time.

Absentee ballot applications are available at the Village Office during regular office hours, Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by calling 547-2411.



Grievance Night

The tentative assessment roll has been completed for 2019. Notices have been sent to the owners of properties that have changed values.

The Assessor, Al Keck, is available weekdays, 8 AM – 2 PM in his office at 22 Main Street. He will also hold special office hours for those unable to meet during regular office hours on Thursday, February 7, from 6 PM – 8 PM and Saturday,

February 9, from 9 AM – 1 PM or by appointment by calling 607-547-6057.

The Board of Assessment Review will meet on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 in the Village Meeting Room, 22 Main Street, Cooperstown, NY between the hours of 4 PM and 8 PM, for the purpose of hearing and determining complaints in relation to assessments on the application of any person believing himself to be aggrieved.

Complaints with respect to assessments must be filed with the Village Administrator on or before the day of the meeting on a form prescribed by the State. These forms are available at the Village Office, 22 Main Street or by calling (607) 547-2411.

Badger Park Ice Skating Rink

This December's unseasonably warm weather delayed Badger Park's rink opening, but once temperatures dipped below freezing Cooperstown's Village crew worked hard to prepare the ice for skating, opening the rink on January 12th.

Skating rink hours, weather permitting, are as follows:

M/W/F 3pm-7pm mixed use

T/Th 3pm-6pm mixed use, 6:30pm-9pm Hockey

Weekends and Holidays 10am-12noon Family skate; 12:30pm-6:30pm mixed use.

Maintaining the ice takes vigilance, and our Village crew works hard to ensure the best possible conditions for skating, but conditions are also dependent on Mother Nature's cooperation. You can check the Village Website and also Cooperstown Friends of the Parks FB page for updates.

If you don't own skates don't let that stop you from enjoying the ice! There are skates available to borrow in the warming hut.

Removing Snow and Ice from the Public Sidewalk

This winter season, please remember that according to local law:

- Owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from public sidewalks adjoining their properties.
- The use of sodium chloride (rock salt) is not permitted on public sidewalks. Look for deicers labeled as safe for concrete.
- In the business district it is not necessary to remove snow and ice from the pavers, but the pavers can be carefully cleared and deiced if desired.
- Snow or ice you clear must not be deposited on streets or sidewalks.

- Snow or ice must not be deposited on someone else's property without express permission.

If the public sidewalk adjacent to your property is not cleared, the Village will clear it and charge you a fee of \$100 per instance. You will be notified of the need to clear the sidewalk via a paper notice placed at your entrance door before the sidewalk is cleared by Village employees. The Village does not make phone calls or send emails to property owners who have neglected this duty.

We ask that you remain diligent in clearing snow and ice from the sidewalk and make alternative arrangements if you are out of town. We would prefer not to have to issue notices, shovel sidewalks, or fine property owners—we do this to promote pedestrian safety.

Support Our Firefighters – Clear A Hydrant

The Village of Cooperstown offers an opportunity for its residents, businesses, organizations, and others to get involved in helping to keep the Village safer. There are 127 fire hydrants in and around the Village. A map with numbered hydrants is available on the Village website at <http://cooperstownny.org/volunteers/>.

Clearing a hydrant means shoveling the snow 3 feet around the hydrant on all sides. This will ensure that in the event of a fire, firefighters can quickly access water to extinguish it. For the safety of drivers and pedestrians, snow should be piled on the tree lawn and not deposited in the street or on the sidewalk. More serious hydrant issues should be reported to the Village at 547-2411.

If everyone pitches in, we can ensure that access to fire hydrants is more continuous, especially following a large snow storm. The ultimate goal is help ensure a safer Village for all who live, work, and visit here. How would you like to join the team? Contact Rich McCaffery at ctownadoptahydrantdrain@gmail.com or call 547-5256.

2019 Boat Dock and Rack Rental

We will begin to accept names for the boat dock & canoe/kayak rack [waiting list](#) on March 1st. To be put on the waiting list, you must come to the Village office on or after Friday, March 1st, during regular business hours. Spaces are assigned on a first come first assigned basis.

Last year's renters will automatically be assigned a slip/rack space and will have until March 31st to renew for the season. Slips that are not renewed will become available for those on the waiting list.

The rates for the boat docks and canoe/kayak racks for residents will remain the same as they were in the 2018 season. The non-resident boat slip rate will be increased from \$1,000 to \$1250.

Pioneer Park Improvements Planned

Plans for design improvements at Pioneer Park in Cooperstown are underway. Proposed improvements include ADA compliant brick pavers, a relocated Visitor Kiosk to make its touch screen more visible and accessible, a 3-level water drinking fountain, a 6" raised stage area for speakers and music performances, decorative lampposts and re-configured plant beds.

Drawings and a very exciting video of the proposed changes were developed by Michael Haas, Director of Landscape Architecture at Delta Engineering, and presented at the Parks Board meeting on January 7, 2019. Representatives from community groups including the Friends of the Parks, the 4-C's, and the Lake & Valley Garden Club were also on hand to provide feedback on the proposed plans. In 2015, Mr. Haas' firm designed the Lucy B. Hamilton Amphitheater at The Fenimore Museum.

The video can be accessed at the Village website [www.cooperstownny.org] in the right column of the main page as well as under the "News" dropdown. Following final approvals, the work will be undertaken in the fall of 2019.

Overnight Parking

Between November 1 and April 1 overnight parking is prohibited on all Village streets to ensure snow and ice can be promptly removed. Free overnight parking is available in the Doubleday Field Parking Lot and the Fowler Way Parking Lot in designated areas. Look for signs indicating that overnight parking is allowed.

Trees

Why do some of the Village street trees have pink ribbons around them? It is not because they are slated for removal. These are the trees that need to be trimmed. Many of them are mature trees, and to extend their lives and reduce risk they need some tender loving care.

The Village of Cooperstown received a DEC award of over \$13,000 to inventory street and park trees over the summer. This work updated the last street tree inventory, which was completed in 2008, and the results can be found online at <https://cooperstownny.treekeeperssoftware.com/>. Additionally, the project led to an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP), also funded by DEC.

Using this information, members of the Tree Advisory Committee surveyed the Village street trees this fall, paying special attention to trees that the arborist had noted needed attention. Trees identified in the inventory for removal were confirmed and marked in spray paint with an X. Trees to be trimmed got pink ribbons. The Village is currently soliciting competitive bids for this work.

If you are interested in the Village's trees and would like to be part of this process in the future, the Tree Advisory Committee is looking for members. Contact the Village office at 547-2411.

Doubleday Field Renovations

Over the past several months, planning for the \$5.8 million in renovations of Doubleday Field has progressed. In November we received \$1 million in SAM funding from former Assemblyman Magee, which along with the \$1 million from Sen. Seward and \$3 million Empire State Development grant, will allow us to move forward as we continue to seek additional funding.

The largest project cost will be the replacement of the deteriorated 3rd base bleachers, with new bleachers and a building which will provide ADA compliant seating and restrooms as well as an administrative office, storage space and changing rooms. Demolition of the old bleachers received all the necessary approvals last fall, and the Village DPW was busy this past month removing and storing the metal seats which will be sold. It is anticipated that approval of the bid documents for the demolition of the concrete portion of the bleachers will occur at the January Trustee Meeting.

Proposed work will include upgrades (handrails, repainting) to the historic Grandstand, infield drainage improvements and an improved pedestrian entrance from Main Street. A green space with a drinking fountain, benches and the re-located Sandlot Kid will provide safe and a visually attractive approach to the stadium.

A community information meeting to present the project will be scheduled for early March. The meeting will provide a timeline for proposed work, along with a display of the designs and the opportunity for residents to ask questions.

Doubleday is really a priority as we hope to have that project completed by the summer of 2020.

Spring Clean-Up

To facilitate spring clean-up, the Village of Cooperstown will be picking up green yard waste Monday – Friday beginning at 7 a.m. during the month of April, weather permitting. After April, pickup will be the last Thursday of each month.

Compostable Waste and Brush Curbside Pickup Procedures:

- 1) The Village will pick up compostable yard waste and brush separately. There will be two pickups per street, one for soft green waste and a second for brush. These may occur over a period of several days depending on demand.
- 2) Place any soft green waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and other soft garden waste in compostable bags or in reusable hard plastic containers.

Place containers between the sidewalk and the curb.

- Do not use plastic bags.
 - Do not include non-compostable materials like plastic flower pots.
 - Do not assume that we can lift containers that you cannot lift. Containers that are too heavy will be left at the curb.
- 3) Place brush in a pile between the curb and sidewalk.
 - Do not put brush in containers.
 - Keep brush separated from green waste.
 - Root balls, stumps, and large tree limbs will not be picked up. We can only take material that will go through our shredder.
 - 4) We do not pick up any kind of construction debris or processed lumber.
 - 5) For the initial clean up in the spring and the final clean up in the fall, leaves and green waste do not have to be bagged. Leave them in a pile between the curb and sidewalk. We will pick them up with our leaf vacuum.

- Make sure there are no stones or bricks in the leaf pile.
- Keep brush in its own pile that will be picked up separately.
- Check the Village web site for fall and spring cleanup dates.
- These pickups will continue over several days until all eligible items have been picked up.

- 6) Residents may also bring green waste at any time to the Village Street Garage on Linden Avenue and deposit it themselves in the appropriate area. Commercial dumping is prohibited.

If you have any questions please call Mitch Hotaling, DPW Superintendent, 547-2411.

Paid Parking

The 2019 Paid Parking season will run from the Friday before Memorial Day through Columbus Day. The paid parking area includes portions of Main, Chestnut, Pioneer, and Fair Streets. And, the rate remains \$2 per hour, payable in 15-minute increments, with a \$14 all-day option at the Doubleday Field parking lot. On the streets, parking will continue to be limited to a 2-hour purchase, with the ability to buy additional time by re-upping at a Pay and Display Machine. Doubleday Field provides an all-day option.

Downtown parking permits provide an alternative to using Pay and Display machines for parking in the paid parking area. Anyone—local or tourist—can buy a permit. Permit holders can park for up to 2 hours daily in 2-hour areas without purchasing a ticket from a Pay and Display machine. The same permit can be used to park in the Doubleday Field Lot after 4 pm and all day in the permit-only Fowler Way Parking Lot (located behind the Chamber of Commerce) if an all-day option is needed. Please remember that the purchase and display of a parking permit does not guarantee a parking space.

Parking permits can be purchased in person from the Village Clerk's office at 22 Main Street or by mail or email. Applications can be accessed on the village website www.cooperstownny.org (under permits) or at the Clerk's office. A completed application must be accompanied by the appropriate fee, payable by cash or check. Credit cards can be accepted at the Village office. Permits remain a great deal at a cost of \$25 for the first permit, and \$15 for additional permits at the same address.

TEP Project

Our Transportation Enhancement Program project involves federally funded work on Main Street and Pioneer Street, including intersection improvements. Work on Pioneer Street wrapped up late in 2018. Thank you for your patience in awaiting reinstallation of the concrete sidewalks—we experienced some unexpected delays related to the installation of new lampposts on Pioneer Street. We know that some of the workmanship on the Pioneer Street sidewalks is not up to industry standards. Damaged and irregular sidewalk will be removed and replaced as the first order of business in 2019 once weather permits.

Work in the spring will include:

- Completion of areas on Pioneer Street started in 2018
- Pioneer intersection work: sidewalks, hardscapes and accessories
- Work on Main Street east of Pioneer to River Street

Construction will progress until Memorial Day. From Memorial Day to Labor Day work will be suspended to avoid disruptions to business during the busy summer season. Work at the Main and Chestnut Street intersection will be completed in the fall of 2019 to avoid any adverse impacts over the summer. Work on the project is expected to finish in the fall of 2019.

WWTP Upgrade Project

As we await some final approvals from our regulatory and funding agencies, it is anticipated that work will begin later this year for the much needed upgrade to our Waste Water Treatment Plant. This project is being financed by zero and low interest loans from the Environmental Facilities Corporation and through \$4,000,000 in grants from the Dormitory Authority secured by our legislators, Senator James Seward and Assemblyman William Magee.

Musicians and Artisans Wanted

In a joint effort of the Village of Cooperstown and the Cooperstown Area Chamber of Commerce, this summer Music on Main will continue. Musicians will be performing in Pioneer Park, and artisans who would like to demonstrate a craft may also participate. Those interested should contact the Chamber of Commerce at 547-9983 or office@cooperstownchamber.org to reserve dates and times. CD sales and a donations container are permitted.

Housing Working Group

Since June 2018, a working group consisting of the Mayor, Zoning Enforcement Officer, and representatives from the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Historic Preservation and Architectural Review Board, Economic Development and Sustainability Committee (EDSC), and Bassett Healthcare have been meeting to consider the following action item from the 2016 Comprehensive Plan: “Update zoning and planning regulations to ensure that a diversity of housing types is permitted within the Village.”

The committee continues to refine its recommendations, which will be reviewed by both the Planning Board and the Board of Trustees before a public hearing is set to amend the Zoning Law.

In developing its recommendations, the committee has agreed on the following principles:

- (1) Data compiled by Bassett Healthcare and the experience of realtors, which has been shared with the EDSC, indicates a demand for additional housing within the Village of Cooperstown.
- (2) Additional housing should come in a variety of forms to meet the needs of people at all life stages and will likely result in an increased population density in the core of the Village and the potential for new development on the periphery.
- (3) Protection of natural resources, especially waterways (lake, river, brook), should not be sacrificed in order to increase housing options.
- (4) Sensitivity to view sheds, including those from the lake and along Village entrances, is an important consideration in any new development.
- (5) Zoning regulations should recognize existing conditions and seek to minimize nonconformities.
- (6) More intensive uses should require greater review, especially outside the core of the Village.
- (7) Change in permitted use should be subject to review by the Zoning Enforcement Officer and other boards when required to meet the zoning law.

Stay tuned for a public presentation of the specific changes being proposed. The group has already determined that at the end of this process other revisions will still be needed in regard to zoning, especially to the Waterfront Development Overlay

District section of the Zoning Law and the Subdivision law. Land use provisions should always be evolving to meet current needs and best practices in the stewardship of our natural resources and community character, and this group is undertaking one part of that process.

Outdoor Dining and Vending

In 2013 the Village of Cooperstown first began permitting outdoor eating areas. We are happy to see that so many local eateries have been able to take advantage of outdoor dining. It provides the perfect opportunity for locals and tourists to enjoy great food and a beautiful streetscape in an increasingly accessible environment.

Reminders from the Water Department

- Meters will be read again April.
- Remember to leave an opening for operators to access the water touch pad at your residence or business. For instance, if you have fencing around your shrubs, please leave an opening for them to access the touch pad.
- Even slight drafts during winter weather may cause your water meter to freeze and break. To avoid the expense and inconvenience, please ensure that your water meter is draft free.
- Leaving for the winter? Don't forget to drain your household water pipes and water meter to prevent the pipes from freezing while you're away.
- If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 547-5591.

Bench Donations

As part of the TEP project, the Village will be purchasing 51 new benches for Main Street and the Pioneer Park area. These benches will replace the benches currently on the street, which are an assortment of privately owned benches and mismatched Village-owned benches. The new Village benches will have a classic Victorian look with black iron frames and arms and wood slats.

The Village has already received inquiries about helping to pay for the new benches as a way to honor loved ones or participate in the renewal of Cooperstown's downtown. We are happy to report that the Board of Trustees has recently approved a bench donation program. For a contribution of \$350, the Village's share of the cost of a new bench, donors may help fund a new bench, which will be marked with a dedicatory plaque. Contact the Village office at 547-2411 for more information.

Cooperstown Winter Carnival 2019

Full Cooperstown Winter Carnival activities can be found here: www.cooperstownwintercarnival.com

The Cooperstown Winter Carnival has a variety of volunteer opportunities at various events on February 8, 9 and 10. You may stop by the Welcome Center in Pioneer Park when you see the OPEN sign just outside the entrance or contact Rich McCaffery at 547-5256 or richcooperstown@gmail.com. Printed programs are available at the Village Office and various businesses/organizations as well as the Welcome Center. We hope you will get involved....we need you!

Loading Zones

Beginning last spring, the Village has been collecting data on loading zone usage by our local businesses. We currently have four designated loading zones, two on Pioneer Street and two on Main Street. Based on input from 22 businesses, it appears the loading zones are working well. They are all well used, and they conform with our Complete Streets resolution, creating a safer environment for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and deliverers.

The Economic Development and Sustainability Committee has suggested two changes regarding the current Loading Zones. The first is that times be standardized with loading from 6am to noon and standard parking from noon to 2am. Currently start and end times vary, as do days of the week, and signage can be confusing. The committee further recommends that the loading zones in front of the former CVS storefront be shortened to 92 feet from 114 feet. While this loading zone receives more usage than any other, since the relocation of the CVS, deliveries in this area have been fewer. A public hearing has been set for February 25 at 7pm to receive public input on these changes.

Village Holiday Schedule

The Village Offices will be closed:
❖ February 18 (in observance of President's Day)

